

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-13 are pending in the present application. Claims 3, 5, and 6 have been amended as a result of this response. Claims 1 and 11 are independent claims.

**Claim Objections**

Claims 3, 5, and 6 have been objected to due to minor informalities. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 3 has been amended to overcome the minor deficiency.

With respect to claims 5 and 6, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims have been amended. Original independent claim 1 recites introducing a compressed gas. Newly amended dependent claim 5 recites that the compressed gas may be in a liquid or vapor phase approaching supercritical phase.

Applicants respectfully submit that a compressed gas may be defined as any gaseous material or liquefied gas kept in a container under pressure. A compressed gas may be a substance that is a gas at normal pressure and room temperature but is held in a pressurized container resulting in it becoming a liquid. This is a commonly accepted definition of compressed gas. Reconsideration of this objection is respectfully.

**35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Cooke Rejection**

Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, and 8-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,541,979 to Cooke et al. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 recites introducing a compressed gas as an annealing medium. Further, independent claim 11 recites annealing a polymeric optical element in a compressed gas.

In rejecting independent claims 1 and 11, the Examiner cites column 2, lines 42-68 of Cooke. However, Applicants have reviewed this passage in detail and can find no reference to a "compressed gas". Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Cooke is deficient and independent claims 1 and 10 are allowable, for at least this reason. Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 4-6 and 8-10 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claim 1, for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

**35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Soane et al Rejection**

Claims 1-3 and 5-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,026,147 to Soane et al. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently claims, is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully assert that independent claims 1 and 11 recite treating a polymeric optical element. In contrast, Soane et al. relates to a method for preparing an intermediate article. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Soane for at least this reason.

Still further, independent claim 1, for example, recites introducing a compressed gas as an annealing medium into the chamber and annealing the polymeric optical element and removing the annealing medium from the chamber. The result of such a process is **removing molecular orientation**.

In contrast, Soane discloses **orienting** dopant moieties included in a polymeric matrix by using a pressurized gas as a diluent. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a result achieved by the method of independent claims 1 and 11 is completely the opposite from the

result obtained from Soane. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 11 are allowable for at least this additional reason.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-3, 5-10, and 12 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims 1 or 11, for at least the reasons set forth above.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the various objections and rejections and allowance of claims 1-13 is respectfully requested.

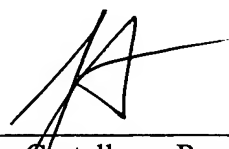
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

  
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